

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A voltage conversion device, comprising:

a voltage converter converting a power supply voltage from a power supply into an output voltage such that said output voltage attains a target voltage, through a switching operation between a first switching element as an upper arm and a second switching element as a lower arm; and

a control device setting an upper limit value of a duty ratio based on an overvoltage that is applied to said power supply when said electric power returns back to said power supply resulting from a deviation of said output voltage from said target value and providing switching control to said first and said second switching elements using a duty ratio in a range lower than an upper limit value of the duty ratio.

~~wherein when an overvoltage is applied to the power supply, the upper limit value of the duty ratio is determined.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The voltage conversion device according to claim 1, wherein said control device includes

duty ratio calculating means calculating said upper limit value of the duty ratio in accordance with said output voltage and a threshold voltage, wherein the threshold voltage is a reference value for determining whether an overvoltage has been applied to said power supply, and

switching control means providing switching control to said first and said second switching elements using the duty ratio in the range lower than said calculated upper limit value of the duty ratio.

3. (Previously Presented) The voltage conversion device according to claim 2, wherein said output voltage is supplied to an inverter driving a motor.

4. (Previously Presented) The voltage conversion device according to claim 2, wherein said output voltage is supplied to a plurality of inverters provided corresponding to a plurality of motors and connected in parallel with each other.

5. (Previously Presented) The voltage conversion device according to claim 4, wherein said power supply voltage is obtained from a direct current battery.